

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-2, 4-8, and 10-13, drawn to a method to control post-sinter dimensions of a multilayer ceramic substrate.

Group II, claim(s) 14, 16-19, and 21-25, drawn to a multilayer ceramic laminate structure.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: NATARAJAN et al. (US 6,627,020) teaches a multilayer ceramic structure containing at least one personalized ceramic greensheet with a plurality of personalized areas surrounded by at least one first continuous non-densifying structure (col. 2, lines 49-55), and moving at least one non-densifying structure to an external position on the greensheet so as to be a second continuous non-densifying structure would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention because aesthetic design changes are *per se* obvious (MPEP 2144.04).

3. During a telephone conversation with Wenjie Lee on December 4, 2009 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-13. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14, 16-19, and 21-25 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

5. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result**

in a loss of the right to rejoinder. Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-14, 16-19, and 21-25 are present and have been fully considered.
7. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wenjie Lee on December 4, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 14, 16-19, and 21-25 were cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-13 allowed.
9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In the process of laminating and subsequently sintering ceramic greensheets, adding at least one first non-densifying structure and at least one second non-densifying structure on the kerf around the personalized regions of at least one of the laminated greensheets,

pre-sinter sizing the laminate so as to remove the at least one second non-densifying structure, and subsequently sintering is not known of fairly suggested in the art.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICKOLAS HARM whose telephone number is (571)270-7605. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 7:30a-5:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571)272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NICKOLAS HARM/
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Mark A Osele/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791
December 7, 2009